



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

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Media Release



Roberto A. Villaseñor

Chief of Police

Date: July 27, 2011

Contact: Sgt. Matt Ronstadt

ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY

*****UPDATE – JULY 28, 2011*****

On July 28, 2011 at approximately 10:30 a.m., the Tucson Police Department received a 911 call from a business near South Park Avenue and East Ajo Way that the pictured subject was in the lobby. The caller indicated that they recognized the subject from media coverage. Officers from Operations Division South responded to the area and made contact with the subject, who has been identified as **28-year old Christian Mercado-Velez**, of Tucson.

Detectives from the Sex Offender Registration and Tracking Unit, who are also responsible for investigations involving missing and exploited children, began an investigation into this suspect earlier this month. A police report was filed when a male subject approached a young girl inside a retail business near North Oracle Road and West Wetmore Road on July 18, 2011. In that incident, the male approached the girl when she was separated from her family inside the business, and made unwanted physical contact with her before fleeing the location.

On July 26, 2011, a report was filed when a male subject approached a young girl inside another retail business near West Roger Road and North Flowing Wells Road. The suspect in this incident approached the victim while she was still near her family but while they were distracted. The suspect made unwanted physical contact with the girl before fleeing from that location. Both victims are under 10 years of age. The suspect description in both incidents was similar.

While the investigation is still ongoing, Mercado-Valez has been charged with **one count each of Molestation of a Child, and Aggravated Assault-Victim Under the Age of 15**. He will be booked into the Pima County Jail.

Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – July 28, 2011

The Tucson Police Department is seeking public assistance in identifying the pictured subject. The subject has been involved in at least two known incidents where he aggressively approached children inside businesses on Tucson's west side within the last two weeks.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

The subject is described as a **Hispanic or Asian male, approximately 18-20 years of age, approximately 5'6" tall, with a medium build and dark hair.**

The Tucson Police Department urges anyone with information about this subject's identity or whereabouts to contact the TPD Tips Line at **837-7588** or **88-CRIME**.



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